

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8005

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CB, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK POSITION ON CAMBODIA REPRESENTATION

REF: ATHENS 8540

1. WE APPRECIATE EFFORTS MADE BY EMBASSY ATHENS WITH GOG ON CAMBODIAN ISSUE. IN ACTUAL EVENT, IT DID NOT BECOME NECESSARY TO REVEAL TO CARAYANNIS HIS REVISED INSTRUCTIONS REPORTED REFTEL. OTHER SIDE, REALIZING OUR VOTING STRENGTH, CONTENTED THEMSELVES WITH SOUR GRAPES FOR THE RECORD AND PROCEDURAL TANGLED FOR WHICH WE MADE CONTINGENCY PLANNING DID NOT MATERIALIZE.

2. MEANWHILE CARAYANNIS CAME FORWARD TO AMBASSADOR BENNETT BEFORE MEETING BEGAN WITH OFFER TO BE HELPFUL. HE DID NOT REVEAL WHETHER HE HAD RECEIVED NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM ATHENS. HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO GIVE US FULL VOTING SUPPORT ON PROCEDURAL MANEUVERING. HE WAS RELUCTANT AT FIRST TO MOVE FROM ABSTENTION ON SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS BUT AGREED WHEN TOLD ON HIS INQUIRY AS TO FRENCH POSITION THAT FRENCH HAD PROMISED SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT ON REMAINING BAROODY AMENDMENT. AS IT TURNED OUT, IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO CASH THESE CHIPS.

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3. BENNETT DISCUSSED FRANKLY WITH CARAYANNIS OUR UNDER-

STANDING OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS OF WEDNESDAY AS RELATED TO EMBASSY ATHENS BY MFA OFFICIAL, NAMELY TO GIVE SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT TO SOUTHEAST ASIANS BUT WITH "CERTAIN FREEDOM OF MANEUVER." CARAYANNIS WAS SEEMINGLY EQUALY FRANK IN GOING INTO DETAIL ON HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND OFFERING TO SHOW BENEETTT TELEGRAM RECEIVED BY HIM FROM ATHENS DIRECTING HIM TO ABSTAIN ON ALL ASPECTS. HE SAID HE HAD ORGINALLY HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT ASEAN (AND U.S.) POSITION. HOWEVER, AFTER GREEK ABSTENTION ON PLO VOTE WAS SHARPLY CIRTCIZED IN ATHENS BY ANDREAS PAPAANDREOU, GOG CONCLUDED THAT SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITION ON CAMBODIA WOULD AGAIN BE CENOUNCED BY ANDREAS AS INDICATING GREECE A TOOK OF UMS. - CIA INTERESTS. ON THAT BASIS, HE RECEIVED INSTRUCATIONS TO ABSTAIN. FOLLOWING CARAYANNIS-BENNETT CONVERSATION LATE AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 27, HE TELEPHONED FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS IN PARIS AND BITSIOS DIRECTED HIM TO ABSTAIN. HIS VERSION SEEMS GENUINE ENOUGH. FROM OUR KNOWLEDGE OF BITSIOS FROM HIS LONG SERVICE HERE HIS ACCOUNT OF HIS POSITION DOESN'T SEEM UNLIKELY.

4. IT WOULD PROBABLY BE HELPFUL FOR EMBASSY ATHENS TO EXPRESSION APPRECIATION TO FOREIGN OFFICE FOR CARAYANNIS FORTH-COMING ATTITUDE HIS MORNING NOVEMBER 29 IN FINAL GA SESSION ON CAMBODIA. WE MAY NEED HIS HELP LATER IN SESSION IF CHINA AND OTHERS TRY TO HAVE ANOTHER ROUND ON CAMBODIAN CREDENTIALS BEFORE END OFSESSION. IN THAT CONNECTION, CARAYANNIS PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON YUGOSLAVIA THAN ANYONE ELSEIN DISCUSSING NON-ALIGNED PRESSURES ON HIM.
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